

CLAIMS

1. A hand-held portable container (1) for collecting and disposing of animal excreta comprising a shell (5, 101) having an opening for receiving excreta, the shell (5, 101) having an impaling means including a plurality of tines (8) disposed within the shell (5, 101) for impaling excreta.
2. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the tines (8) are provided by teeth (105) tapered so that the edges of the teeth (105) closest to the opening of the shell (5, 101) are thin enough to allow at least partial penetration of excreta received into the opening.
3. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the teeth (105) extend radially inwardly from the shell (5, 101).
4. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claims 2 or 3, wherein the teeth (105) are symmetrically disposed about the central axis of the shell (5, 101).
5. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the shells (5, 101) are nestable with one another.
6. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the container (1) comprises a housing (3, 131) having one or more shells (5, 101) releasably mounted thereon.

7. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 6, wherein one or more shells (5, 101) are held on one end of the housing (3, 131) by a collet (141).
8. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the shells (5, 101) are held in place by friction.
9. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the shell (5, 101) has a flared open end.
10. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 6, wherein an aerosol cartridge (4, 136) is mounted in the housing (3, 131).
11. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the aerosol includes a freezing component.
12. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claims 6 to 11, wherein the housing (3, 131) comprises two identical semi-cylindrical plastics mouldings (133).
13. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claims 6 to 12, wherein a second end of the housing accommodates means for actuating an aerosol cartridge (4, 136) so that a predetermined portion of aerosol is dispensed.
14. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claims 6 to 13, wherein the actuating means comprises a button (150) housed in the second end of the

housing and being depressible so as to dispense aerosol from the aerosol cartridge (4, 136).

15. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the button (150) is normally urged out of the housing (3, 131) by a biasing means on the nozzle of the aerosol cartridge (4, 136).
16. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claims 14 or 15, wherein the travel of the button (150) is selected to accommodate a wide range of aerosol cartridges (4, 136).
17. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claims 10 to 16, wherein the shells (5, 101) have an aperture for receiving the aerosol from the aerosol cartridge (4, 136).
18. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the aperture (104) is disposed centrally of the shell (5, 101) and is substantially aligned with the dispensing nozzle in use.
19. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the impaling means is removably mounted on the shell.
20. A hand-held portable container (1) as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the impaling means comprises a base located outside the shell and a plurality of tines outstanding therefrom, extending through and disposed within the shell, the

shell having a plurality of apertures aligned with the tines for slidable engagement therewith.

21. A method of collecting animal excreta comprising the steps of contacting the excreta with a solid body, dispensing aerosol including a freezing component around the excreta and solid body so as to form a bond between the excreta and the solid body and subsequently lifting the solid body so as to remove the excreta from the surface it was deposited on.
22. A hand-held portable container substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to Figs. 1 to 3 of the accompanying drawings.
23. A hand-held portable container substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to Figs. 4 to 19 of the accompanying drawings.
24. A method of collecting animal excreta substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to the accompanying drawings.